GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Endowments Department – Constitution of Bhajana Mandalis under the auspices of Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) in the Endowments Department – Formulation of guidelines – Further orders – Issued.

REVENUE (ENDOWMENTS-I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 574 Dated:23.05.2016
Read:-

G.O.Rt.No.333, Dated:28.4.2015 of Rev. (Endts.I) Department.

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ORDER:-

The Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Endowments Department vide reference read above, have ordered that every temple in every village should have a Bhajana Mandal attached to it. The Dharmika Sadassu held on 2nd December, 2015 at Tirumala resolved that in every village groups of devotees have to be organized into Bhajana mandalis covering 1) Pandari Bhajana 2) Kolatam 3) Chekka Bhajana 4) Mahila Mandal 5) Bala Bhajana Mandals 6) Sankeerthana Mandals 7) Stotra Parayana 8) Yoga Gurus.

2) In continuation of the orders issued vide reference read above, the following further decisions are taken. Past experience has shown that organizing the Community at village level into Bhajana – Bhaito / Pandari / Kolatam / Chekka Bhajana has proved to be a very effective instrument for rousing Dharmic consciousness among the people.

3) The Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) of the Endowments department has had detailed discussions with various Bhajana gurus / Bhajana mandals and other community leaders. It has felt that some organized training is necessary for building up Bhajana troupes in a decentralized manner, so that all enthusiastic persons have opportunity to join such activity at the village level.

4) The general practice has been to invite a Bhajana Guru to the village and organize a kind of training in the evenings after their field work. That way 25 to 30 interested persons will get trained in the concerned form of Bhajana such as Kolatam or Chekka Bhajana or Pandari Bhajana. In order to build a trained troupe, on an average, it takes two months for a Guru. In many cases, the Bhajana guru reaches the village in the evening and training is imparted usually between 8 pm and 10 pm when the villagers are free from their routine. The villagers usually look after the Guru, and in some cases, provide boarding and lodging in the village. After a month of training, the Bhajana Guru organizes Bhajana by two trained groups giving performances in the village and in few cases in the neighbouring villages. Any plate-collections/Dakshina during such performances will go to the Guru.

5) The difficulty in continuing the above model is that a Bhajana guru is capable of training hardly 6 troupes in 6 villages in one year. Typically, he teaches 15 to 20 Sankeerthanas in addition to the Talam, Ragam and foot-work. If this model is followed, a large number of Gurus are required to be hired on a full-time basis paying monthly remuneration. More significantly this model will take several years to cover all the villages in the State.

P.T.O.

6) Hence, keeping these aspects in view the Bhakthi Prachara Trust of Bhagavatula Charitable Trust was consulted as they have a large number of well-trained Bhajana Gurus. Extensive interactions were held by the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust with the Bhajana Gurus of East Godavari District.

7) The entire exercise was to arrive at an alternative model which would cost less and at the same time speedup the process of starting and training Bhajana mandalis at the village level without diluting the quality. Hence, it is decided that a few very experienced Bhajana Gurus can efficiently and economically conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) programme to existing senior Bhajana gurus in various districts. Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust may plan and organize these Training of Trainers (ToT) programs through the Bhakthi PracharaTrust of (BCT).

8) The objective behind the above programme is to have a small number of, say 5 to 8 Master Bhajana gurus in each district. They will be deployed in each district after an intensive training programme in the BCT. During training, a common syllabus will be chalked out. About 30 Bhajan Sankeertans covering various Hindu dieties will be selected. Training methodology will be taught. Bhajana books and CDs will be provided. If necessary, a batch of raw and potential Bhajana enthusiasts shall be brought to the training camp, so that practical training could be imparted by the master gurus to convert these raw potential enthusiasts into Bhajana guru / leader for his village Bhajana Mandali.

9) From out of the master trainers brought for training to the BCT, 5 to 8 Master Gurus will be selected for each district. They will be provided with fulltime employment for at least 2 years. In each district, through the temples, through SSF and using the mandal level dharma pracharaks, one or two Bhajana enthusiasts will be selected from each village and brought to a training camp to be conducted within the district in a major temple. Two or three Master Gurus will be in-charge of the training. These 100 raw enthusiasts from the villages will be imparted intensive training to make them Bhajana gurus. After training these Bhajana gurus will build and train their own Bhajana teams in their respective villages. They are not fulltime employees. Only to and fro expenses to reach the training camp in addition to boarding and lodging facilities during the training shall be provided. Thus Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust can train a large number of Bhajan teams expeditiously and economically.

10) In order to maintain quality and make some mid-course corrections, the Master Trainers in the districts will have to visit the villages in order to oversee the type of training being imparted by these village gurus. As an additional input, Bhajana training CDs and training inputs shall be provided through the TV channels also.

11) These Bhajana groups shall be attached to one of the temples in the village.

12) **Commissioner of Endowments is directed to identify one or two major temples in each district who will support this entire programme in that particular district.**

13) The components of expenditure for the major temples in the district will be approximately as under:

Cntd.

a. Bear the Honorarium expenses of 5 to 8 Bhajana master gurus in each district for a period of 2 years. (Honorarium Rs.10,000/- + transport and other miscellaneous expenditure Rs.5000/- = Total Rs.15,000/- per month per Bhajan Guru). Commissioner of Endowments and Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust shall plan to enlist the services of Bhajana master gurus to commence the program.

b. To provide infrastructure / other support for organizing Bhajana Training activity till all the villages in the district are covered. Facilities to be provided are

    i. Accommodation during the training period for the Master Gurus and 100 trainees for 3 weeks (in all 105 members)

    ii. Food arrangements for 24 days for each batch.

    iii. Travel expenses for the trainees from the village to temple and back.

    iv. Bhajana kits / CDs, Bhajana Books, Public address system etc., - Rs.1,00,000 per batch of trainees.

c. It is informed that three master gurus can handle about 100 village enthusiasts in a batch.

d. This will also yoke big temples and small temples and the big temples will be providing each small village temple with a trained Bhajana guru.

e. These big temples also, with the help of Bhajana gurus and SSF will be organizing Bhajana competition at the mandal level and also at the district level. The winning team shall be given incentive prizes – mostly Bhajana kits /dresses etc. Some select teams will also be sent to other major temples in the State to perform Bhajans in those temples. (Cost Rs.6-lakh per year).

f. The above scheme will facilitate each big temple to have three to four hundred Bhajana mandals in different villages in their area of operation. And for all festivals in the temples, these Bhajana mandals could be invited.

g. **All big temples (59 in number) shall start Akhanda Nama Sankeerthana** of round-the-clock Bhajana regularly. All Bhajana mandalis from nearby villages can get involved in such Akhanda Nama Sankeertan whenever it is organized.

14) The Chairman Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust, President, Samarastha Foundation and Commissioner, Endowments, Andhra Pradesh shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V. PRASAD
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner, Endowments Department, A.P., Hyderabad.
Copy to:
P.S. to Minister (Endowments)
P.S. to Principal Secretary (Endowments).

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER